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District Accountability/ Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Minutes 01/24/2011

Approved

Arlington School Committee

District Accountability & Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 24, 2011 @ 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

Subcommittee Members: Jeff Thielman, Kirsy Allison-Ampe, M.D. (Joseph Curran - absent)

District Leadership: Wallis Raemer, Ed.D., Kathleen Bodie

Technology Committee members: Mary Cummings, Josh Lobel, Peter Kidwell

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

- The minutes of the November 19, 2010 subcommittee meeting were approved. Motion by Dr. Allison-Ampe, second by Mr. Thielman. Approve 2-0.
- The subcommittee received a draft Technology Plan for the Town of Arlington. Among other things, the draft plan calls for:
 - Communicating technology curriculum and 21st century skills to teachers and community.

Professional development around implementation of technology into teaching.

Ensuring that adaptive technologies are accessible to all students.

Updating curriculum using curriculum mapping in Google.

Work with teachers to complete systematic integration of technology standards and use of resources and programs into curriculum and instruction.

Implement electronic assessments of student progress

Hiring of a K-12 Director of Academic Technology and Libraries (Chief Technology Officer) who would report to the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.

Mr. Thielman encouraged the Superintendent to include a K-12 CTO position in the FY '12 budget. He argued that that such a position was needed to drive the effort to fully integrate technology into teaching and learning district-wide. Without such a person, his sense was that it will be a challenge to meet the district's stated mission of ensuring "equitable access to appropriate technology in support of our educational community, student learning, staff instruction, school and community communication and data management." Dr. Allison-Ampe disagreed with Mr. Thielman's recommendation. She believes the district cannot afford to add this position in 2011-12 under the reductions budget and recommends waiting to add a Chief Technology Officer when the district has more resources.

- The subcommittee discussed studying collaboration with Belmont or other communities about offering joint Advanced Placement classes. Dr. Bodie said the district is using an AEF grant to develop on-line courses through the Harvard Extension School. These courses may be offered to other districts. Dr. Bodie has been in meetings with other districts about having joint courses in which students in one district could participate by videoconference. However, the Superintendent has not found a district with a schedule that matches precisely with the AHS schedule. She will continue to explore joint courses, but feels there are many challenges,

including needed technology upgrades and schedules that conflict with other school districts.

- A discussion took place about the School Committee co-sponsoring a screening of "Race to Nowhere." The subcommittee felt the School Committee's attention would be on the budget for the next 2-3 months.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.